IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of Applicants:

Date: April 2, 2002

Haight et al.

Group Art Unit: 2881

Serial No.: 09/933,461

Examiner:

Filed: August 20, 2001

Docket No.: YOR919980510US2

For: METHOD FOR MINIMIZING SAMPLE DAMAGE DURING THE ABLATION OF

MATERIAL USING A FOCUSED ULTRASHORT PULSED LASER BEAM

Assistant Commissioner for Patents

Washington, D. C. 20231

CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

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Dr. Daniel P. Morris, Esq.

Reg. No. 32,053

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

IN THE CLAIMS

Cancel claims 1-100.

Add claims 10 -184.

101. (Added) A method for laser induced breakdown (LIB) of a non-biologic material with a pulsed laser beam, the material being characterized by a relationship of fluence breakdown at which breakdown occurs versus laser pulse width that exhibits a distinct change in slope at a characteristic laser pulse width, said method comprising the steps of:

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